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# Fleeting Shadows



45 1 3

## Chapter 1 by Tunalock

Ryan felt uneasy. He had the feeling for the past hour that he was being watched, but he also had been home alone for 45 of those 60 minutes. Countless times, he turned around, only to find nothing behind him.

"You're just being paranoid..." he told himself as he walked to the kitchen. He turned the stove on and filled a kettle with cold water before placing it on the stovetop. "I think it's time to just... relax," Ryan said as he sighed heavily.

The past few weeks had been a nightmare for him. His girlfriend, Marie, was in a car crash while on a business trip halfway across the country. She was alive, but seriously injured. Ryan hated to see her like that and vowed to do his best for her while she was recovering.

## Chapter 2 by romantiCaveman



Marie was in television, specifically "ScopeTV," an animation-only offshoot-channel geared towards young adults. She took a lot of pride in the shows she promoted, and Ryan was happy for her. He only ever really considered animation a kids/comedy/Japanese-basement-weirdo kind of thing, despite her efforts to get him to watch some early 90's anime or cartoons while curled up on the couch.

Ryan worried that the channel would always struggle with that sort of demographic. It'd become almost routine for some concerned parent to make waves after assuming ScopeTV would be safe for children and inadvertently exposing them to TV14 programs, despite the

adults making the decisions. He had heard stories of parents who had to take their children off the channel because they were afraid of what they might be exposed to.

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As he leaned against the wall,

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Flittering across the ceiling, a single tiny bat slowly circled.

He didn't remember leaving the TV on. Was he losing his mind?

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